

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Management Objectives

Management recommendations for the designated River Management Zone were developed to protect the river, enhance its natural qualities and to provide suitable outdoor recreation opportunities in a near –natural setting.

The primary purpose of a Natural River designation is to protect the wild-scenic qualities of the river while permitting certain appropriate uses consistent with the designation. A wild-scenic river could, by the act of designation, become a prime candidate for overuse and overdevelopment. The River Management Plan has been developed to avoid such a possibility.

1. Administration:

State Resources: Overall responsibility for implementing and coordinating the River Management Plan is assigned to the Fisheries Division of the Department of Natural Resources. The Office of Planning Services and the DNR Natural Rivers Task Force will act in an advisory capacity. Enforcement of water quality standards and water use regulations will be the responsibility of the Water Resources Commission and other divisions of the Department of Natural Resources.

Other Public Properties: Agreements between the Department of Natural Resources and other public landowners will be developed as needed and feasible.

Private Properties: Pursuant to Section 8 of the Natural River Act, administration of local zoning regulations along the river shall be the responsibility of the local unit of government. Should state zoning be necessary, it will be administered by the Department of Natural Resources.

2. Water Quality:

Water quality will be maintained in a near-natural, high quality state as it presently exists. The river will be monitored periodically by the Surface Water Quality to insure the maintenance of water quality (Part 31, P.A. 451 of 1994). Enforcement of water quality standards and water use regulations will be implemented by the Water Resources Commission and other Department of Natural Resources divisions involved in these activities. Particular surveillance will be directed to pond development and the quality of the Federal Fish Hatchery effluent. An additional monitoring station has been added in the vicinity of Penny Bridge to compliment the two stations presently operated by the Surface Water Quality.

3. Land Development

- a. Subdivisions: No additional subdivisions or unplatted land sales shall be permitted in the River Management Zone on the mainstream unless lots are of sufficient size to allow for 200-foot setbacks for buildings and have a minimum of 150 feet of lot width. On tributaries the minimum setback shall be 100 feet with at least 150 feet of lot width.
- b. Land Fills: Land fills or building on the land in the flood plain or on the uplands within the 400-foot zone where the highest ground water table is within six feet of the land surface shall be prohibited.
- c. Stream Alteration: To protect the natural character of the river, and the natural flow of its waters, no damming, dredging, filling or channelization will be permitted in the portions of the Jordan River or tributaries designated under the Natural Rivers Act. Stream improvements for fish habitat or watercraft docking shall be camouflaged to retain the natural character of the river.
- d. Building Setbacks: New buildings and appurtenances shall be set back at least 200 feet on the mainstream and 100 feet on tributaries. New structures on state lands will adhere at least to minimum setback requirements or, where possible, be placed further back and out of view.
- e. Building Design and Screening:
 - 1) Single family buildings of a rustic design are preferred. Owners should be encouraged to use natural materials and unobtrusive colors in the construction of new or maintenance of old buildings.
 - 2) Screening: Owners of the existing buildings, visible from the river, are encouraged to screen them with native vegetation. The DNR Area Forester will advise on planting.
- f. Commercial and Industrial Structures: No commercial or industrial structures or use will be permitted in the 400-foot River Management Zone except for campgrounds. Local zoning should not permit commercial or industrial activities beyond the 400-foot zone, which unreasonably interfere with the Natural River environment.
- g. Utilities: Gas or oil pipelines, or electric power lines of more than 35 KV, generally shall not be permitted in the River Management Zone except on existing rights-of-way. Plans for cross-country transmission utilities which recommend crossing the management zone or river must be approved by the Natural Resources Commission. (Sec. 15, Natural Rivers Act). New local service lines will not cross the river or the 200-foot setback zone to private dwellings unless they are placed underground.
- h. Signs: Only those signs necessary for (a) direction, (b) resource information, and (c) regulation of use should be placed along public use areas of the designated river zone.

- i. Highways and Roads: No new public roads or highways will be permitted in the River Management Zone. Plans for relocations or improvements to public roads must be approved by the Natural Resources Commission (Part 305, P.A. 451 of 1994).
 - j. Disposal of solid wastes shall be prohibited in the River Management Zone.
- 4. Management of Adjacent Lands:
 - a. Trees and Other Vegetation: Trees, shrubs, and other vegetation will be managed to protect and enhance the river's natural values through maintenance of vegetation types native to the area.
 - 1) State-owned land: On state-owned land, cutting will be restricted within 100 feet of the edge of the mainstream and tributaries [see 4a 3) below]. Controlled cutting practices may be used in the area between the 100-foot and 400-foot lines to carry out natural resource management programs which are in conformance with the wild-scenic character of the river. Such cutting plans must first receive specific authorization from the Lansing Office of the Fisheries Division (Part 305, P.A 451 of 1994).
 - 2) Private land: On private frontage, a restricted cutting belt 100 feet wide will be maintained on the mainstream (Part 305, P.A 451 of 1994) and 25 feet wide in the tributaries. Grazing will not be permitted within these belts if it contributes noticeably to stream degradation. In those cases, cattle will be fenced out to protect the riverbanks. (Cost of fencing may be financed by USDA-REAP Programs.) Provisions will be made for cattle crossings and watering areas.
 - 3) Restricted cutting provisions: Restricted cutting means that dead, diseased, unsafe, or fallen trees and certain other kinds of vegetation can be removed. The Area Forester will work with private owners to advise on cutting practices, restrictions, and authorize cutting within the restricted zone when appropriate.
 - 4) On private lands outside the River Management Zone, it is recommended that the local Soil Conservation Districts, County Extension Service and Department of Natural Resources cooperate with landowners to ensure that timber harvest, agricultural practices and housing or other development, are compatible with the wild-scenic designation of the river.
 - b. Minerals: New development, exploration or production of oil, gas, salt brine, sand and gravel or other minerals except ground water, are not permitted within 300 feet of the river on private lands. (Sec. 10, Natural Rivers Act) Natural Resources Commission policy prohibits drilling for oil or gas within ¼ mile of streams on state land.

5. River or River-Related Activities:

a. Boating and Canoeing:

- 1) The use of motorized watercraft is presently prohibited upstream from the M-32 Bridge in East Jordan by an existing rule established under Part 801, Marine Safety, of 1994 PA 451.
- 2) Upon approval of the Jordan River Management Plan by the Natural Resources Commission, the number of rental watercraft permitted on the river will be limited to existing numbers (currently 37 rental watercraft are available locally) pending further study and the determination of possible need for a permit system.
- 3) Public launching shall be limited to designated boat launching sites.

b. Camping:

- 1) No new private campgrounds shall be established within 200 feet of the mainstream, or within 100 feet of the tributaries.
- 2) Camping between the Jordan River/Pinney Bridge Road and the river is presently prohibited. A comprehensive management plan for the Jordan River State Forest should consider the following camping regulations for state-owned lands in the River Management Zone.
 - (a) Camping on state-owned lands is not permitted within 200 feet of the mainstream or tributaries. Beyond 200 feet, camping is permitted at designated sites only. Sites to be designed to accommodate one or two camping parties only.
 - (b) As new sites are developed, the camping that is immediately adjacent to the road and river be eliminated and thereafter prohibited.

c. Fishing and Hunting:

- 1) Fishing and hunting will continue to be permitted in the management area and adjoining land areas under current laws and regulations.
- 2) Emphasis will be given to maintaining the high-quality trout fishery and quality fishing experience.
- 3) Wildlife management practices will be undertaken in the River Management Zone in conformance with the wild-scenic character.

6. Access and Motorized Travel:

a. Public Access:

- 1) Additional vehicular access will not be provided to the river. New roads and river crossings will not be permitted in the River Management Zone, except that road access to private property will be permitted upon approval of the appropriate zoning authority.
- 2) The public currently has access at five sites from Graves Crossing downstream to Rogers Bridge. Additional walk-in access may be acquired and/or developed where appropriate. Where possible, parked vehicles at access sites should be out of view of the river. Native trees and shrubs should be planted to screen parked vehicles from being seen from the river. Where this is not possible, additional land for parking should be acquired and adequate screening provided.

Motor Vehicles:

- 1) Licensed motor vehicles will be prohibited in the 400-foot River Management Zone except for travel on existing public roads, private roads, and designated trails on publicly owned lands. Parking will be allowed only at designated areas within the management zone.
- 2) Amphibious vessels, all-terrain vehicles or other off-road machines for which licenses are not required will be prohibited on publicly-owned land except on such trails as may be designated the River Management Zone.
- 3) The muffler requirement of the Michigan Vehicle Code shall be enforced for all motorized vehicles using public roads within the management zone. This means muffler must be original equipment or equivalent. (Sec. 707, Act 300, P.A. 1949).

B. Measures for Plan Implementation:

1. Property Control:

- a. Zoning or other land-use regulations shall be the chief means of protecting the Jordan as a wild-scenic river under the River Management Plan.
 - 1) Zoning shall be applied to the 400-foot management zone on both the mainstream and tributaries. Upon adoption of a local zoning ordinance, certified copies or maps and/or documents describing the Natural River Zone shall be filed with the local tax assessing officer and the State Tax Commission. In establishing true cash value of property within the Natural River Management Zone, the assessing officer shall recognize the effect of use limits established by the ordinance. (Part 305, P.A. 451 of 1994).

- 2) Appeals: Under certain circumstances strict adherence to this plan may create unreasonable hardships for the frontage owner. Such cases may be appealed to the appropriate local board for a variance. The Area Forester and other experts should be consulted to recommend to the appropriate board or to the Natural Resources Commission a course of action which will have the least impact on the wild-scenic character of the Natural River.

b. Land Acquisition:

- 1) The state may purchase or trade lands with owner consent on the designated river to maintain or improve the river and its environment. Efforts should be made by the appropriate divisions of the department to purchase lands on or trade other lands for lands along the river as funds become available. (Part 305, P.A. 451 of 1994).
- 2) Some landowners in this wild-scenic river zone may be interested in offering scenic or other easements which coincide with their property interests. The opportunity to purchase such easements should be pursued.

- c. Cooperative agreements will be developed with federal and other state agencies to support the Natural Rivers Programs by implementing policies which will provide financial assistance for practices which will protect and enhance the quality of the natural river and its tributaries and conversely will not provide grant assistance, loan funds or ensure mortgages for any persons or contractors who develop project plans which are not in harmony with the Natural Rivers concept and plan.

2. Other laws and programs reinforcing Natural Rivers management objectives should be utilized to the extent necessary to protect the river in implementing the management plan for the river and its tributaries.

C. Management of Areas Beyond the Natural River Zone:

It is recommended that local government units zone areas to maintain the integrity of the Jordan River as a wild-scenic river:

1. By limiting residential development to low density single-family structures.
2. By providing zones where industry which may produce noise, smoke, fumes, odors, etc., will not intrude upon the valley.
3. By providing zones for commerce where heavy traffic, parking, automobile exhaust and noise will not create environmental intrusions upon the valley.